

Weather Alert

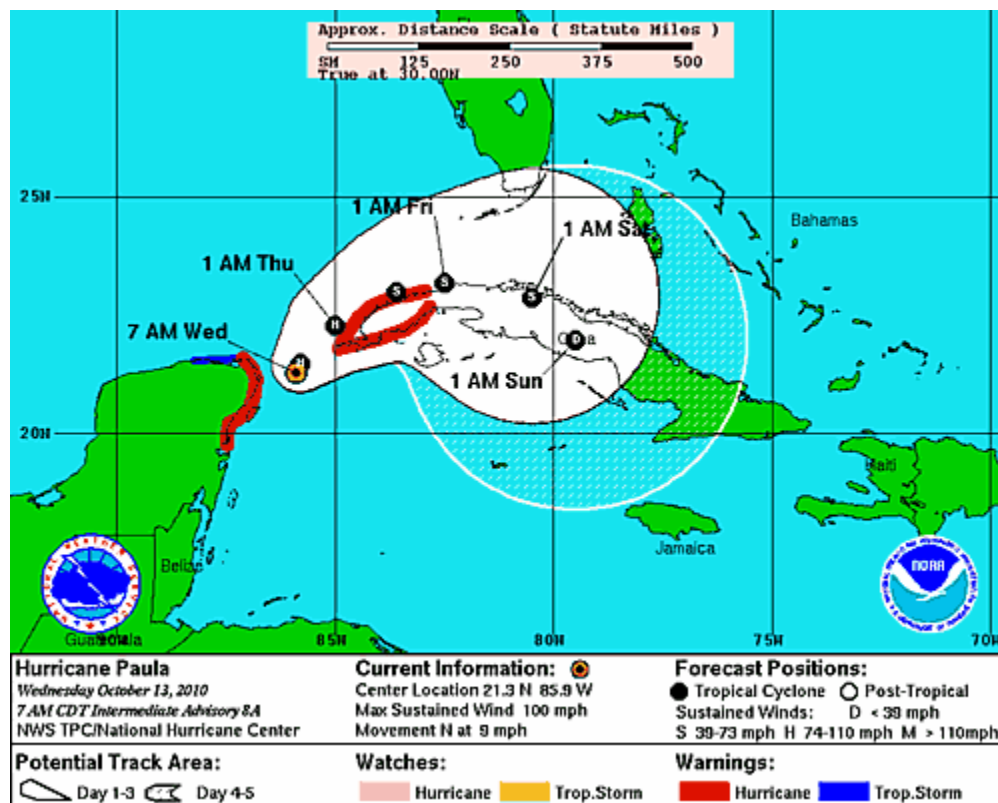
This message expires on Friday October 15, 2010

Date: 13 October 2010

Subject: Hurricane Paula

This Warden Message is issued to alert American citizens residing in or traveling to Cuba that:

- The government of Cuba has issued a hurricane warning for the province of Pinar del Rio and Isla de la Juventud.
- Current tracking maps and weather forecasts indicate that the center of Hurricane Paula will approach the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula on Wednesday and be over western Cuba Wednesday night. Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 100 mph, some 160 km/hr with higher gusts. Paula is a category two hurricane on the saffir-simpson hurricane wind scale. A gradual weakening is expected to begin by this afternoon or tonight.
- Tropical storm force winds are expected to reach extreme western Cuba later this afternoon, with hurricane conditions forecast by tonight.
- Paula is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 3 to 6 inches over eastern portions of the Yucatan peninsula and portions of western and central Cuba. Isolated maximum amounts of 10 inches are possible in areas of mountainous terrain over central and western Cuba. These rainfall amounts could cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides. Storm surge will raise water levels by as much as 4 to 6 feet above normal tide levels along the immediate coast in areas of onshore flow. The surge will be accompanied by large and destructive waves.



- For up-to-date information on the storm's track, please monitor local television and radio news channels. If you have access to Internet, we also recommend accessing the National Hurricane Center's website <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>. The Cuban Meteorological Institute provides Cuban specific weather information at <http://www.insmet.cu>.
- The U.S. Interests Section recommends that all United States citizens in Cuba register with the Section's American Citizens Services Unit. Travelers can register their visit in person or on-line by visiting the U.S. Interests Section's website at <http://havana.usinterestsection.gov/>. The U.S. Interests Section is located in Havana at Calzada between L and M Streets, Vedado; telephone (537) 833-3551 through 833-3559. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In case of an after hours emergency the duty officer can be reached at (53) 5 280-5791.
- The U.S. Interests Section will continue to monitor this storm and will issue updated messages. U.S. citizens are urged to monitor media reports, take necessary precautions and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all times (e.g. U.S. passport, birth certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that American citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found in the "Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go" pamphlet at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis_pa_tw_2915.html, and on the "Natural Disasters" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1207.html. Updated information on travel in Cuba may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Please continue to monitor local media and the U.S. Interests Section's website for updated information on this and other issues at, <http://havana.usinterestsection.gov>. For further information please consult the Country Specific Information Sheet for Cuba, available via the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Interests Section, Consular Section.